

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /155 W

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R 031355 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5207

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0449

E. O. 11 652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MA, VN, VS

SUBJ: MALAGASY- GVN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 52335(WEEKLY VIET- NAM HIGHLIGHTS, 22 MAR)

BEGIN SUMMARY: AS COUNTER PRESSURE TO ANY MALAGASY TEMPTATION TO RECOGNIZE VIET CONG, WE RECOMMEND GVN (IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO) SEEK AGREEMENT WITH MALAGASY REPUBLIC ON DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION AND EXCAHNGE AMBASSADORS. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTEL REPORT THAT VIET CONG AND DAHOMEY HAVE DECIDED ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION AND ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL RAISES SPECTER OF WHETEHR MALAGASY GOVT WILL BE TEMPTED TAKE SIMILAR ACTION FOLLOWING ITS RECOGNITION SIHANOUK REGIME IN CAMBODIA AND NORTH VIET- NAM.

2. WHILE WE HAVE HEARD NO HINTS TO THIS EFFECT, WE THINK IT PRUDENT TO BE SURE THAT COUNTERPRESSURES EXIST. BEST FORM OF SUCH COUNTERPRESSURE SEEMS TO US TO BE GVN EFFORT WITH MALAGASY TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION AND EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS AND PERHAPS INVITATION FOR MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT SAIGON (AS WE RECOMMENDED IN TANANARIVE' S 1542, DEC 19, 1972).

3. WAS ANY GVN APPROACH TO MALAGASY MADE DURING LONG STAY OF
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FONMIN RATSIRAKA AND DIRECTOR BILATERAL RELATIONS RATSIMANDRESY
IN PARIS FOR FRANCO- MALAGASY NEGOTIATIONS? IF NOT, WE WOULD AGAIN
SUGGEST GVN MAKE SUCH APPROACH.

4. BURDEN OF INFLUENCING MALAGASY GOVT MUST FALL MAINLY ON GVN,
BUT, IF THIS EMBASSY AWARE OF GVN APPROACH AND ITS NATURE, IT MIGHT
PUT US INTO POSITION OF REFERRING TO APPROACH IN OUR DEALINGS WITH
MALAGASY OFFICIALS AND THUS ADD TO COUNTERPRESSURES AGAINST ANY
TEMPTATION TO MALAGASY GOVT TO RECOGNIZE VC.
MENDENHALL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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